



U.S. Immigration
and Customs
Enforcement

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News Release

13 PAST MEMBERS OF SERBIAN MILITARY INDICTED FOR IMMIGRATION FRAUD

Seven other former Serbian soldiers face administrative immigration charges

PHOENIX – Thirteen Bosnians who now live in the Phoenix area have been indicted on federal criminal charges for failing to disclose on their immigration paperwork that they previously served in the Serbian military. The defendants, who are named in indictments unsealed late yesterday, are charged with visa fraud and some also face perjury violations.

All of those charged are citizens of the former Yugoslavia, now Bosnia-Herzegovina. Due to the atrocities committed by all sides during the Bosnian War in the early 1990s, Bosnians who seek refuge in the United States are required to declare in detail all military service, including service in the Serbian Army. While under oath, the defendants allegedly made false statements regarding their Serbian military service that allowed them to obtain immigration benefits and move to the United States.

“We will aggressively prosecute those who lie about their military service in order to fraudulently obtain entry into the United States,” said Paul K. Charlton, United States Attorney for Arizona.

The charges are the culmination of a year-long investigation involving U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) and the Federal Bureau of Investigation. In addition to the 13 subjects who face criminal charges, seven other Phoenix-area Bosnians have been arrested by ICE and placed in administrative immigration proceedings. ICE special agents made all 20 arrests earlier this week. The group, including 19 men and one woman, range in age from early 30s to the mid-70s.

“We will not allow the United States to become a sanctuary for those using fraud and deception to qualify for refugee status,” said Roberto G. Medina, special agent-in-charge for ICE investigations in Arizona. “These individuals willfully concealed their prior service in the military and this raises serious questions about their basic claims to eligibility.”

For a summary of the criminal charges and possible sentences, please refer to the accompanying chart.

Defendant Name, age, case number and trial date	Important Dates	Charge(s)	Maximum Penalty(ies)
Blagojevic, Mladen Age 34 CR05-0674-PHX-DGC Trial Date: not set	Indictment: July 6 IA on Sep 13 DH, Arraignment and Status Hearing on Sep 16 at 11:30 am	Fraud or Misuse of Visas, Permits, and Other Documents	10 years in prison; \$250,000 fine
Dragic, Nenad Age 55 CR05-0668-PHX-SMM Trial Date: Nov 1	Indictment: July 6 IA on Sep 12 DH/PH Sep 16 at 10:30 am	Fraud or Misuse of Visas, Permits, and Other Documents & Perjury	10 years in prison; \$250,000 fine & 5 years in prison; \$250,000 fine
Gujic, Milenko Age 49 CR05-0664-PHX-FJM Trial Date: Nov 1	Indictment: July 6 IA on Sep 12 DH/PH Sep 14 at 1:30 pm	Fraud or Misuse of Visas, Permits, and Other Documents	10 years in prison; \$250,000 fine
Gujic, Mitra Age 48 CR05-0666-PHX-MHM Trial Date: Oct 25	Indictment: July 6 IA on Sep 12 DH/PH Sep 14 at 1:30 pm	Fraud or Misuse of Visas, Permits, and Other Documents	10 years in prison; \$250,000 fine
Hercegovac, Rajko Age 47 CR05-0665-PHX-MHM Trial date: not set	Indictment: July 6 IA on Sep 12 DH/PH Sep 16 at 11:00 am Status Hearing also on Sep 15	Fraud or Misuse of Visas, Permits, and Other Documents	10 years in prison; \$250,000 fine
Hercegovac, Risto Age 42 CR05-0641-PHX-MHM Trial date: Oct 25	Indictment: July 6 IA on Sep 12 DH/PH Sep 16 at 9:30 am	Fraud or Misuse of Visas, Permits, and Other Documents	10 years in prison; \$250,000 fine
Krstic, Momcilo Age 54 CR05-877-PHX-NVW Trial date: Nov 1	Indictment: Aug 30 IA on Sep 13 DH and Status Hearing on Sep 15 at 2:00 pm	Fraud or Misuse of Visas, Permits, and Other Documents & Perjury	10 years in prison; \$250,000 fine & 5 years in prison; \$250,000 fine

Ninkovic, Rajko Age 63 CR05-0669-PHX-SRB Trial date: Nov 2	Indictment: July 6 IA on Sep 12 DH/PH Sep 20 at 3:30 pm	Fraud or Misuse of Visas, Permits, and Other Documents	10 years in prison; \$250,000 fine
Spiric, Radenko Age 38 CR05-0671-PHX-MHM Trial date: Oct 25	Indictment: July 6 IA on Sep 12 DH/PH Sep 16 at 10:00 am	Fraud or Misuse of Visas, Permits, and Other Documents & Perjury	10 years in prison; \$250,000 fine & 5 years in prison; \$250,000 fine
Spiric, Vitomir Age 34 CR05-876-PHX-EHC Trial Date: not set	Indictment: Aug 30 IA on Sep 12 DH, Status Hearing & Arraignment on Sep 15 10:30 am	Fraud or Misuse of Visas, Permits, and Other Documents & Perjury	10 years in prison; \$250,000 fine & 5 years in prison; \$250,000 fine
Stankovic, Nikola Age 43 CR05-0667-PHX-DCG Trial date: not set	Indictment: July 6 IA on Sep 13 DH/PH Sep 15 at 4:00 pm	Fraud or Misuse of Visas, Permits, and Other Documents	10 years in prison; \$250,000 fine
Tojcic, Savo Age 51 CR05-0672-PHX-NVW Trial date: Nov 1	Indictment: July 6 IA on Sep 13 DH was waived	Fraud or Misuse of Visas, Permits, and Other Documents & Perjury	10 years in prison; \$250,000 fine & 5 years in prison; \$250,000 fine
Vidakovic, Cvijan Age 53 CR05-0670-PHX-JAT Trial date: not set	Indictment: July 6 IA on Sep 13 DH/PH Sep 16 at 1: 30 pm	Fraud or Misuse of Visas, Permits, and Other Documents (two counts) & Perjury	10 years in prison; \$250,000 fine for each of two counts & 5 years in prison; \$250,000 fine

Note: All dates on the above chart are in 2005. The IA is the initial appearance in federal court. The arraignment coincided with that in most cases, unless otherwise indicated. The DH is the detention hearing; PH is the Preliminary Hearing.

ICE

U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement was established in March 2003 as the largest investigative arm of the Department of Homeland Security. ICE is comprised of five integrated divisions that form a 21st century law enforcement agency with broad responsibilities for a number of key homeland security priorities.